



U. S. Patent Application No. 10/645,598
Attorney Docket No. 032739 M 106
Page 1

Attorney Docket No.
032739 M 106

P A T E N T

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:)	CONFIRMATION NO.: 9471
)	
Yuzuru NANJO et al.)	
)	
U.S. Serial No.: 10/645,598)	Group Art Unit: 2852
)	
Filed: August 22, 2003)	Examiner: Hoan H. Tran
For: FIXING APPARATUS		

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, Applicants withdraw this case from allowance in order to obtain entry and full consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement and attached Information Disclosure Citation Form (PTO-1449). The documents cited on the enclosed PTO-1449 all have been cited in official actions from the Japanese Patent Office for Applicants' priority application numbers 2003-053342 and 2003-053368.

It is respectfully requested that the cited documents be considered by the Examiner in the above-identified patent application and that the cited documents be made officially of record therein. It is further requested that a listing of the same appear on the face of any patent which may issue from this application.

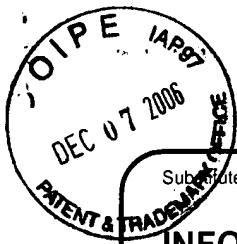
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97, no fee is considered due in connection with the filing of this Statement. It is being filed as the "submission" with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

Respectfully submitted,
SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

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Date: December 7, 2006



Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

of

1

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/645,598
Filing Date	August 22, 2003
First Named Inventor	Yuzuru NANJO
Art Unit	2852
Examiner Name	Hoan H. Tran
Attorney Docket Number	032739 M 106

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP09-274403	10-21-1997			
		JP2002-148982	05-22-2002			
		JP2002-093566	03-29-2002			
		JP09-050199	02-18-1997			
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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.